



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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More than 1,000 workers at five Elkhart County companies benefit from state workforce initiative

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Five Elkhart companies and more than 1,000 area residents are taking advantage of the state's new workforce development program, Indiana@Work, Gov. Joe Kernan announced today.

American Electronic Components, Inc., C.M.I. Automotive, Gunito Corp., Jayco, Inc and Record/Play Tek will profile 24 different jobs and assess the skills of up to 1,222 Hoosier workers. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development has obligated a combined \$65,339 to offer the services free of charge. Announced in January, Indiana@Work combines skills assessment tests from ACT®, and a job profiling service from a designated vendor.

"In the past two years, we've restructured our taxes, put new tools and incentives into place to encourage business growth and job creation, and now we are preparing our workforce in a bold and innovative way," Kernan said. "This program allows both Hoosier businesses and workers to gain a better understanding of the type of skills needed to be successful. It has the potential to reshape Indiana's economy and we are pleased to welcome these Elkhart County companies into the fold."

Located in the city of Elkhart, **American Electronic Components, Inc.** (AEC) designs and manufactures electronic sensors, switches and relays. Employing nearly 350 people, the company will use \$22,609 to assess the skills of 253 existing employees and up to 300 potential new hires as it looks to expand in the future. The company will also profile five job occupations, including production worker, production supervisor, manufacturing engineer, quality engineer and design engineer.

"Through occupational profiling and skill assessments, AEC will be able to better match individuals with available opportunities and more specifically target our employee development efforts," said Jessica Shetterly, the AEC's Director of Human Resources. "We are very grateful to the Department of Workforce Development and the Indiana Department of Commerce for supporting our focus on building a stronger, more capable and empowered workforce,"

Also located in the city of Elkhart, **C.M.I. Automotive** is a leading supplier of replacement automotive headliners and full service interior trim. Using its \$12,652 in funding from Indiana@Work , the company will assess the skills of 62 incumbent employees up to 30 potential new employees as hires as the company seeks to expand its production. C.M.I. Automotive will also profile five positions, including lamination, customer service, inventory, warehouse, and quality inspection occupations.

The largest manufacturer of wheel-end components in North America, Elkhart's **Gunito Corp.** is a leading supplier for the trucking industry and employs 550 people. Using the \$10,665 in Indiana@Work funding, the company will assess the skills of up to 267 of existing employees and profile five different jobs. These profiled positions include assembler, machine operators (level I and II), multitactic operator and production supervisor.

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Jayco, Inc. located in Middlebury, was founded in 1968 and employs nearly 1,300 Hoosiers. Jayco develops and manufactures a full-line of recreation vehicles, including camping trailers, travel trailers, fifth wheels, class C motorhomes, expandable travel trailers, and lightweight travel trailers. With the \$8,532 in Indiana@Work funding, the company will profile four positions in metal fabrication, assembly, sewer, and lamination, giving the company a more accurate idea of skills necessary to be successful in those positions.

Headquartered in Bristol, **Record/Play Tek, Inc.** designs and builds digital voice recording and retrieval systems. With over 35 years of experience in the industry, Record/Play Tek has developed a solid reputation for reliability and service. The \$10,881 in state assistance will be used to profile five jobs, as well as provide skills assessments for up to 10 individuals as the company seeks to add staff in the coming months.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 20,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 300 job profiles since its inception in January.

A centerpiece of Indiana@Work, WorkKeys® is a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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